

March 2007

APPENDIX H

TURBINE DEWATERING PROCEDURE

FOR CHIEF JOSEPH DAM

March 2007

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHIEF JOSEPH DAM PROJECT OFFICE, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

SEATTLE DISTRICT
BRIDGEPORT, WASHINGTON 98813

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EFFECTIVE UNTIL SUPERSEDED OR RESCINDED

PROJECT STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE NO. 406

CHIEF JOSEPH DAM

SUBJECT: Fish Protection Procedures for Turbine Maintenance

To: Operations, Maintenance, and Resource Management Sections

Purpose: Outline key criteria and operational constraints intended to protect, and provide for the recovery of, any fish, which may become trapped in generator draft tubes at the Chief Joseph Dam Project.

1. This procedure provides a general outline of the dewatering process itself, and includes details for only those constraints specifically intended to promote fish survival. It is not intended to address the details of personnel safety policy or procedures, or any detailed operational instructions for the actual dewatering process. Personnel safety provisions are detailed in the appropriate activity hazard analyses. Details of the operational steps for dewatering are covered by separate Operating Procedures and, to some extent, may be dictated by circumstances unique to each dewatering. However, all dewatering efforts will adhere to the fish protection provisions outlined in this procedure.

2. Hydroelectric turbines and water passages must be inspected and serviced periodically. This requires draining the water passages between the intake bulkhead gates and the tailrace stoplogs. After the water reaches tail water level, the remaining water is drained to an dewatering sump and then pumped out into the river. Any fish trapped in the draft tube area must be removed before being stranded or lost through drains. It is therefore desirable to minimize numbers of fish involved in the draining process and then to quickly salvage any fish that may have been trapped.

3. Natural Resource Management section personnel will carry out fish protection and recovery operations with the help of maintenance personnel. During the dewatering process they will be present at the draft tube entry door, and will direct and monitor it through the final stages of the draft tube dewatering.

4. The Project's Natural Resource Management personnel will direct and coordinate the fish protection procedures and the recovery and release process. The Maintenance and Operations

Sections will provide Natural Resource Management advance notice of planned unit dewatering as soon as possible prior to the date of dewatering. Natural Resource Management personnel will conduct meetings and briefings as necessary to ensure all dewatering team members are familiar with the required fish recovery process.

5. Natural Resource Management personnel will coordinate with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Hydro Program Office, 503-231-6855, gary.fredricks@noaa.gov, to provide notification at least two weeks, if possible, in advance of any maintenance requiring dewatering or otherwise potentially affecting fish. In addition, the Fish Passage Operations and Maintenance Group will be notified with an annual schedule, contact USACE Portland District Office, Operations Div., 503-808-4304.

6. Several hours before the unit is to be dewatered the Operations Section will contact BPA to get final approval for the outage and make sure all the clearance tags are ready to be placed. Early on the day of the dewatering, the mechanics and operators will coordinate to lower the intake service gate and/or install the intake bulkhead. This will isolate the intake water passage from the forebay.

7. Operators will prepare to drain the water out of the penstock down to tailrace water elevation while mechanics prepare to install the intake bulkhead and tailrace stoplogs. The mechanics will place the tailrace stoplogs as soon as possible after the unit is flushed out. This entire process from flushing remaining water out of the penstock through complete installation of bulkheads and stoplogs should be completed within 3 hours, barring complications.

8. Operators will open the draft tube dewatering valve and start draining the draft tube to the dewatering sump. At the same time the sump dewatering pump or pumps will be started but the

dewatering sump will not be allowed to go below an elevation of 733 feet above sea level. The draft tube is drained by gravity to this dewatering sump, so by restricting the dewatering sump to a minimum elevation of 733 feet, the draft tube is also restricted to this minimum elevation. The bottom of the draft tube is at an elevation of 725 feet above sea level, so this leaves a large area of water eight feet deep for any trapped fish. The water level in the draft tube will be monitored remotely from this dewatering sump. At no time will the water level in the dewatering sump drop below 733 feet without all aspects of the fish recovery plan in place including recovery devices, insulated transport device, etc. Project personnel will have the dip net, lifting sling, insulated fish carrying tank, and all required safety equipment at the unit during the final dewatering process. Fish can survive four days in the draft tube at a water level of 733 feet and above.

9. For safety reasons, the draft tube entry door will not be opened until confirmation that the tailrace stoplogs are sealed, i.e.: the water level is verified to be below the draft tube man door petcock and a maximum of one dewatering pump is maintaining the water level in the sump. Once Operations has declared a satisfactory seal has been achieved, the mechanics will then open the draft tube access door. General Maintenance personnel will either install safety gear at this time for access to the bottom of the draft tube, or, if the suspended work platform is to be required during this unit outage, it will be installed first. Once the draft tube door is open, the work platform can be installed when necessary and the water level in the draft tube can be monitored from the draft tube man door.

10. When satisfied all fish recovery preparations are in place, the designated Natural Resource Management Section person will authorize the Maintenance Section clearance holder to request the water level in the draft tube be lowered below the 733-foot elevation to a level that allows for safe entry into the draft tube. Upon authorization, the Maintenance Section clearance holder will request the Chief Operator lower the water level in the sump/draft tube below an elevation of 733 feet. Upon receiving the clearance holder's request to go below 733 feet, the Chief Operator shall contact the designated Natural Resource Management Section person to confirm that all fish recovery preparations are complete, and lowering the water level below 733 feet is authorized. After receiving this confirmation, the Chief Operator will authorize journeymen operators to operate the sump as required to control the water level in the draft tube as requested by the designated Natural Resource Management

Section person. Once the level in the sump drops below 733 feet, the designated Natural Resource Management Section person will visually monitor the draft tube water level.

11. When the water is down to a level where entry is safe, approximately two to four feet in depth, personnel will enter the draft tube through the draft tube access door at 747-foot level to inspect for trapped fish. Any live fish will be netted out with a dip net and placed in a rubber-lifting sling that is sized to hold the fish and water. The sling will then be lifted vertically to the 747-foot level and then to the 785-foot level generator floor through a series of hatches and stairways. This should take less than five minutes, during which time the fish will be in water. They will be placed in a large insulated fish carrying tank full of river water located on a cart which will be transported to the freight elevator, from which it will be loaded into a truck for eventual release of fish at the downstream boat ramp, using a flume if necessary. The fish will be handled only once during the netting process. At all other times the fish will be kept in water.

12. When the designated Natural Resource Management Section person has determined that either there are no fish in the draft tube or that all the fish have been safely removed, he will notify the Chief Operator that all fish recovery operations are complete. He will also notify the clearance holder that all fish protection restrictions on water levels in the draft tube and dewatering sump have been released.

13. Other considerations for fish protection include the following:

a. Tailrace logs have structural cross-members that form shelves, which may trap fish. These will be screened off as the bulkheads are removed for maintenance in 2002, but will be inspected for fish as applicable prior to screen installation.

b. Work windows intended to minimize likelihood of trapping endangered species will be investigated, although BPA power demands somewhat limit the timing of unit outages. Initially, avoidance of the month of October is suggested; adjustments may be considered according to experience.

c. Units 1 through 16 have floor drains with a grate with 2.5 inch spacing. It is possible for fish smaller than about ten inches to slip through these draft tube floor drains before they can be salvaged. Units 17 through 27 have side drains with small grate spacing. If necessary, smaller-mesh grating will be added or substituted on the floor drains to prevent entrapment of fish.

14. Equipment required for performing this procedure:

a. Two water hoses to supply water to gallery tank as well as transport tank..

b. Waders.

d. Two 5 gallon buckets to fill water tanks.

e. Large dip nets.

f. Fish bags/large fish stretcher.

g. Rope access ladder and anchors.

h. Rope to assist in hauling fish up ladder.

i. Life vests.

j. Safety belts, 1 per person; also anchored rope or cable for attachment to safety belt during entry and exit.

k. Dollies, one for gallery fish tank and one for transport tank used to take fish up the elevator.

l. Truck with fish transport tank (and possibly flume), to be procured as necessary.

15. Personnel required for performing this procedure:

a. Biologist or other trained personnel to advise on fish handling.

b. Personnel to net and transport fish in draft tube. Fish removal from draft tube requires a minimum of two people, however, three are preferred.

MARK C. JENSON, P. E.
Operations Project Manager

CJD FLOW DEFLECTOR CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS: (Provided By J. Laufle 2006)

1 Fish Salvage Operations

The contractor shall provide 5 working days notice prior to initial dewatering of each work area to allow for a Government Fisheries Biologist to be on site to perform fish salvage operations.

During dewatering, if fish become trapped within the work area, the Contractor shall stop dewatering activities at a time directed by the Government Fisheries Biologist to allow the trapped fish to be removed from the work area. Removal of trapped fish will require the use of on-site equipment provided by the contractor to access the bottom of the dewatering caisson (e.g. ladder) and to lift a tank or sling containing fish and water out of the dewatering caisson and to place it into the river (e.g. crane or pulley system). Government personnel will capture and remove the trapped fish, following which the Contractor may resume dewatering activities.

2 Bubble Curtain

To exclude fish from work areas and to attenuate potentially harmful underwater vibrations, the Contractor shall design, furnish, install, and operate a bubble curtain to help minimize impacts of work on fish. The bubble curtain shall consist of one or more air compressors and air distribution piping. The distribution piping shall have a pipe installed on the river bottom and encircling the work area. The distribution pipe shall have holes drilled at 6 inches on center maximum along the top side of the pipe. The system shall be designed to provide a minimum of 0.25 cfm of air from each hole in the pipe. The pipe shall be weighted sufficiently to maintain its position on the river bottom and to maintain the upward orientation of the holes. The bubble curtain shall be operated whenever the dewatering caissons are being placed to begin work on a new flow deflector. The bubble curtain may be removed upon successful sealing of the dewatering caisson. In addition, a bubble curtain must be used during any pile driving activities, and may be required during drilling activities. Use of the bubble curtain may be required during any activities that are identified as having the potential to cause harm to fish.

The Contractor may propose the use of a proven alternative method to the Contracting Officer.

Any alternative method must be approved by the Contracting Officer.

Note that the contractor was allowed to elect to use strobes instead of a bubble curtain, and has also employed a diver to sweep the area enclosed by the cofferdam prior to sealing.